

SPECIAL MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

January 11, 2010

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building. This special meeting is a joint meeting with the Mansfield Board of Education and the Mansfield School Building Committee.

WORK SESSION/ SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Town Manager Matt Hart and Superintendent of Schools Fred Baruzzi welcomed the attendees and stated the purpose of the meeting was to solicit feedback and direction from the Council, School Building Committee, and School Board.

1. Response to Council/Board Questions

Director of Planning Gregory Padick reviewed the additional research staff conducted concerning other potential sites. Three privately owned properties were indentified as possible sites but the Southeast School site was deemed the most viable for a consolidated school.

Members discussed potential uses for vacated schools, the experience of other towns with large elementary schools, the research regarding the educational and personal experiences in larger schools, transportation issues, demographic trends, neighborhood impacts and state reimbursement options.

2. Discussion/Next Steps

The Board of Education agreed to include information and ask for input on the four school options as part of their budget meetings held at each school. Participants agreed that public comment and education is of the utmost importance. Those present also agreed the cost and options have been determined but what has yet to be determined is the School Board's evaluation of the effects of the four options on the education system.

The School Building Committee will develop a timeline based on the requirements necessary to meet the State's bond funding. The School Board will publicize this timeline at their budget/informational meetings and meet again with the Council to relay the results of the public input process and relay their evaluation of the effects of the options on the value of the program. The Council will then hold an additional public session

and make the decision regarding which option will be presented at referendum.

3. Other

The Board of Education will advertise their meetings as widely as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded to adjourn the meeting
at 7:25 p.m.

Motion passed.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk.